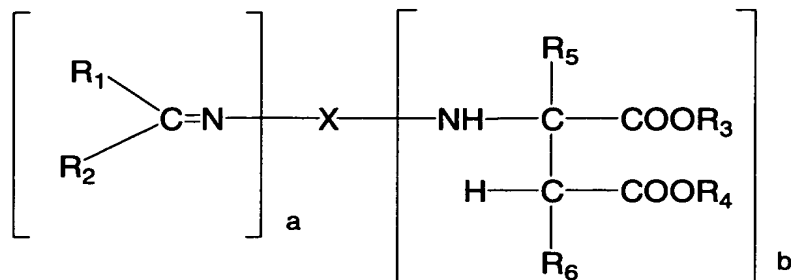


This listing of claims will replace all prior listings:

1. (Currently Amended) An aspartate of the formula:



where

X represents an m-valent hydrocarbon group obtained by removing the primary amino group or groups from a di- or polyamine containing primary amino group and having a number average molecular weight of 60 to 6000, ~~and which may contain further functional groups that either are reactive with isocyanate groups or are inert to isocyanate groups at temperatures of up to 100°C,~~

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are identical or different and represent hydrogen or organic groups which are inert towards isocyanate groups at a temperature of 100°C or less,

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are identical or different and represent organic groups which are inert towards isocyanate groups at a temperature of 100°C or less,

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are the same or different and represent moieties selected from the group consisting of i) C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkyl groups, ii) C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> aryl groups, which may be substituted with up to three alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, iii) C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> cycloalkyl groups, which may be substituted with up to three alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms and iv) R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together form a six-membered cycloalkyl

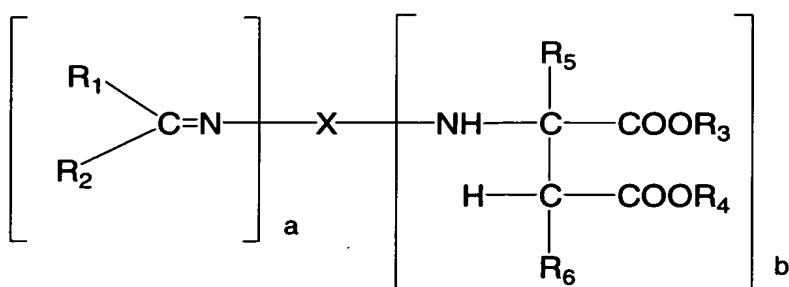
group, with said cycloalkyl group being substituted with from 0 to 3 alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms,  
 m is an integer from 2 to 6; and  
 a and b represent integers of from 1 to 5, provided that the sum of a and b is from 2 to 6.

2. (Original) The aspartate of Claim 1, wherein X represents a divalent hydrocarbon group obtained by removing the amino groups from 1-amino-3-aminomethyl-3,5,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane (isophorone diamine or IPDA), bis-(4-aminocyclo-hexyl)-methane, bis-(4-amino-3-methylcyclohexyl)-methane, 1,6-diamino-hexane, 2-methyl pentamethylene diamine or ethylene diamine.

3. (Original) The aspartate of Claim 1, wherein R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are hydrogen.

4. (Original) The aspartate of Claim 1, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each alkyl groups having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

5. (Currently amended) A process for preparing an asparatate of the



formula:

where

X represents an m-valent hydrocarbon group obtained by removing the primary amino group or groups from a di- or polyamine containing primary amino group and having a number average molecular weight of 60 to 6000, ~~and which may contain further functional groups that~~

~~either are reactive with isocyanate groups or are inert to isocyanate groups at temperatures of up to 100°C,~~

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are identical or different and represent hydrogen or organic groups which are inert towards isocyanate groups at a temperature of 100°C or less,

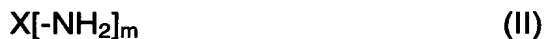
R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are identical or different and represent organic groups which are inert towards isocyanate groups at a temperature of 100°C or less,

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are the same or different and represent moieties selected from the group consisting of i) C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkyl groups, ii) C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> aryl groups, which may be substituted with up to three alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, iii) C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> cycloalkyl groups, which may be substituted with up to three alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms and iv) R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together form a six-membered cycloalkyl group, with said cycloalkyl group being substituted with from 0 to 3 alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

a and b represent integers of from 1 to 5, provided that the sum of a and b is from 2 to 6, comprising

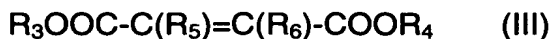
A) reacting at a temperature of 0 to 100°C, in solution or in the absence of a solvent and at an equivalent ratio of primary amino groups in component a) to C=C double bonds in component b) of from about 1.1:1 to about 3.0:1

a) di- or polyamines corresponding to formula (II)



with

b) compounds corresponding to formula (III)



wherein

X, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined above and  
m represents an integer of from 2 to 6, and

B) reacting the resultant product with a ketone.

6. (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein X represents a divalent hydrocarbon group obtained by removing the amino groups from 1-amino-3-aminomethyl-3,5,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane (isophorone diamine or IPDA), bis-(4-aminocyclo-hexyl)-methane, bis-(4-amino-3-methylcyclohexyl)-methane, 1,6-diamino-hexane, 2-methyl pentamethylene diamine or ethylene diamine.

7. (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are hydrogen.

8. (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each alkyl groups having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

9. (Original) A two-component coating composition which comprises, as binder,

- a) a polyisocyanate component and
- b) an isocyanate-reactive component containing
  - b1) the aspartate of Claim 1,
  - b2) optionally other isocyanate-reactive compounds,

wherein the equivalent ratio of isocyanate groups to isocyanate-reactive groups is from about 0.8:1 to about 2.0:1.

10. (Original) A prepolymer containing urea, urethane, allophanate and/or biuret structures comprising the reaction product of a polyisocyanate with the aspartate of Claim 1.